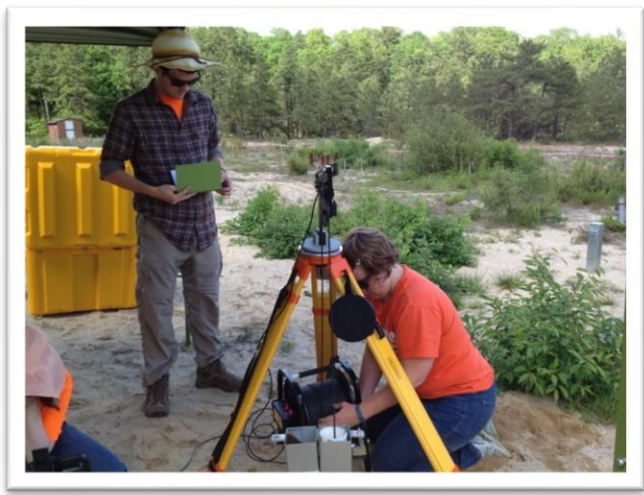




NAGT/USGS 2014 Cooperative Summer Field Training Program



The National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT)/U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Cooperative Summer Field Training Program is the longest continuously running internship program in the earth sciences. Over the past forty-nine years, over 2,300 students have participated in this program, with many participants proceeding on to distinguished careers with the USGS, with academia, or with industry.

The cooperative program was launched at the Geological Society of America meeting in Kansas City in early fall of 1965 when William “Bill” Pecora, then the newly appointed Director of the USGS, held a meeting with a small group of distinguished professors and officers of the NAGT. Pecora wanted to get the professors’ reactions to an initiative that would provide stronger linkage to academia while providing better summer research assistants for the USGS. Pecora suggested that the USGS would provide support by way of internships for outstanding newly graduated geosciences majors, while NAGT would solicit outstanding student nominations from the directors of the nation’s geosciences field camps. (Field camp, a tradition in the education of a geoscientist, is an intensive course that applies classroom and laboratory training to solving field-based geoscience problems. As employers value the skills and applications developed in the field camp experience, enrollments have shown a remarkable two-fold increase in the past decade.)

Needless to say, ‘Pecora’s Plan,’ as it became known, met with instant approval.

Although some modifications have been made over the years, the NAGT/USGS Cooperative Summer Field Training Program operates today much as it did from the beginning. With active participation and support from the highest levels of both organizations (including the Director of the USGS), a joint committee oversees the program. The program year begins in September with the field camp directors (now numbering over 120) being provided information about the program. Each director has the opportunity to nominate up to three students, based on their camp enrollment. Nominated students apply by sending a resume, letter of interest, and transcripts to the USGS. At the same time, USGS scientists interested in working with an intern submit a proposal about their field and laboratory projects. A science review and placement panel then matches candidates by their course work, skills and interests with up to five projects. The listing of candidates and accompanying academic information are sent to USGS scientists for their review. This is followed by candidate interviews and ranking for preferred selection. While the interviews provide useful opportunities for candidates and scientists for determining goodness of fit, the USGS scientist makes the final intern selection.

As interdisciplinary system science is a cornerstone of USGS science, all science disciplines are encouraged, and do take advantage of this program. Students hired through this program have continually received outstanding reviews from scientists and supervisors alike.

Over the years, NAGT has succeeded in identifying top-flight students for the program, and the USGS has succeeded in garnering the interest of competent and enthusiastic supervising mentors. The NAGT/USGS Cooperative Summer Field Training Program continues Pecora’s vision of greater educational involvement and provides a first rate professional experience to students early in their careers. It is a wonderful partnership that influences the career paths of future scientists in positive and exciting ways.

NAGT/USGS 2014 Cooperative Summer Field Training Program Internship Placements

Intern: Paul Alessio
College: California State Long Beach
Mentor: Jonathan Stock
Location: San Francisco, California
Project: Hydrologic field studies to improve the forecasting of storm-driven landslides

Intern: Bengino Alonzo
College: Northern Illinois University
Mentor: Seth Moran
Location: Vancouver, Washington
Project: Seismic imaging at Mount St. Helens

Intern: Nikita Avedivitch
College: Macalester College
Mentor: Stephen DeLong
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Tectonic geomorphology of the Bartlett Springs Fault System in Northern California

Intern: Erica Bays
College: Western Michigan University
Mentor: David Walters
Location: Fort Collins, Colorado
Project: Nutrient retention and productivity in Rocky Mountain streams under alternative stable states

Intern: Heather Bervid
College: University of Washington, Seattle
Mentor: James O'Connor
Location: Portland, Oregon
Project: Geomorphology and Quaternary assessment studies along the Willamette and Columbia River corridors

Intern: Joseph Biasi
College: Indiana University
Mentor: Scott Minor and Jonathan Caine
Location: Denver, Colorado
Project: Cenozoic landscape evolution and tectonics of Southern Rocky Mountains and Alaska/Yukon geophysical/geological reconciliation

Intern: Ben Campanaro
College: SUNY Binghamton
Mentor: Matthew Bachmann
Location: Takoma, Washington
Project: Accessing climate change impacts on Pacific northwest glaciers

Intern: Andrew Canada
College: Sonoma State University
Mentor: David Croker and David Oppenheimer
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Network operations of Northern California seismic stations

Intern: Joshua DeVore
College: University of Kentucky
Mentor: Scott Bennett
Location: Golden, Colorado
Project: Geologic investigations of active faults in the Basin and Range province

Intern: Thomas Doody
College: University of Maryland, College Park
Mentor: Gregory Noe
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Geologic investigations of active faults in the Basin and Range province

Intern: Ciel Elizalde
College: University of Texas, Arlington
Mentor: Paul Hackley
Location: Gulf States
Project: Improved model assessment and development of shale-gas systems in the Gulf Coast Basin

Intern: Sydney Gunnarson
College: Western Washington University
Mentor: Cal Ruleman and Shannon Mahan
Location: Denver, Colorado
Project: Utilizing Quaternary geochronology to unravel geomorphic histories

Intern: Jason Hallman
College: University of North Carolina
Mentor: Rose Wallick
Location: Portland, Oregon
Project: Quaternary mapping along the Willamette River Corridor, and linking geomorphic features with Pacific lamprey habitat

Intern: Melissa Harrington
College: University of Washington
Mentor: Denise Akob
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Microbial degradation of organic compounds in hydraulic fracturing produced waters

Intern: Erin Hayes
College: University of Rochester
Mentor: Allen Shapiro
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Transport of contaminants in groundwater

Intern: Anna Hissem
College: Colorado State University
Mentor: John Takekawa and Isa Woo
Location: Vallejo, California
Project: Evaluating the spatial and temporal distribution of marine mammals and seabirds off the Northern Pacific coast

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Intern: Dylan Jamison
College: University of Washington, Seattle
Mentor: Joan Gomborg
Location: Seattle, Washington
Project: Earthquake early warning modeling studies in the Cascadia Subduction Zone

Intern: Christopher Leach
College: Fort Lewis College
Mentor: Thomas Imbriotta
Location: Lawrenceville, New Jersey
Project: Fate and transport of biodegrading chlorinated solvent contaminants in fractured-rock aquifers

Intern: Michael Jeletic
College: University of Oregon
Mentor: Jennifer Morace
Location: Portland, Oregon
Project: Assessing foodweb resources for juvenile salmonids in the lower Columbia River

Intern: Natalie Leibovitz
College: Northeastern Illinois University
Mentor: John Nimmo
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Modeling and measurement of unsaturated zone flow processes

Intern: Clayton Jernigan
College: University of Alabama
Mentor: Jonathan Glen
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Geophysical studies relating geothermal, mineral, and water resources to natural hazards in the Western U.S.

Intern: Robert McDermott
College: University of Pittsburgh
Mentor: Walter Mooney
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Earthquake hazards studies in the Central and Eastern U.S.

Intern: Genevieve Kidman
College: Southern Utah University
Mentor: Tom Cleasby
Location: Helena, Montana
Project: National rivers and streams assessment survey

Intern: Coulter McPhail
College: SUNY Fredonia
Mentor: James Kuwabara
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Benthic nutrient flux of biologically reactive solutes in the headwaters of the Klamath River Basin

Intern: Krystal Kiel
College: Oregon State University
Mentor: John Lane
Location: Storrs, Connecticut
Project: Surface and borehole geophysical surveys for hydrologic framework assessment

Intern: Daniel Morel
College: Macalester College
Mentor: Perry Jones
Location: Mounds View, Minnesota
Project: Assessing the influence of natural copper-nickel bedrock on water quality

Intern: Talia Klein
College: Brigham Young University
Mentor: William Stephenson
Location: Golden, Colorado
Project: Geophysical investigations of hazardous faults and seismic ground motions for earthquake hazard assessments

Intern: Monica Mustain
College: Illinois State University
Mentor: Jonathan Glen
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Geophysical studies relating geothermal, mineral, and water resources to natural hazards in the Western U.S.

Intern: Todd Knobbe
College: University of Arkansas
Mentor: Cliff Hupp and Edward Schenk
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Interactions between riparian wetland geomorphology, hydrology and ecology pertaining to ecosystem restoration

Intern: Tanya Petach
College: Harvard University
Mentor: Geneva Chong
Location: Jackson, Wyoming
Project: Plant phenology impacts on migration and fitness of Mule Deer

Intern: Jacob Kolke
College: University of Minnesota, Duluth
Mentor: Jeffrey Chaplin
Location: Pennsylvania
Project: Chemistry of groundwater wells in Pennsylvania counties with contrasting amounts of unconventional shale gas extraction

Intern: Alexandra Pickering
College: San Francisco State University
Mentor: Shane Detweiler
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Geological and geophysical studies of the San Andreas Fault system

NAGT/USGS 2014 Cooperative Summer Field Training Program Internship Placements

Intern: Ellyn Rickels
College: Iowa State University
Mentor: Tom Cleasby
Location: Helena, Montana
Project: National rivers and streams assessment survey

Intern: Lucas Rietmann
College: Oregon State University
Mentor: Michael Lisowski and Benjamin Pauk
Location: Vancouver, Washington and Yellowstone
Project: Geodetic monitoring of Cascade Range Volcanoes and Yellowstone National Park

Intern: Timothy Robertson
College: University of Missouri
Mentor: Nancy Simon
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Geochemical analyses of terrestrial input into Upper Klamath Lake

Intern: Aaron Salin
College: University of Texas at Austin
Mentor: Carol Prentice
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Paleoseismic studies of active faults in Northern California

Intern: Tyler Schleider
College: Oregon State University
Mentor: Albert Hofstra
Location: Denver, Colorado
Project: Melt and fluid inclusion analysis for resource studies

Intern: Brian Selk
College: Brigham Young University
Mentor: Jeffrey Chaplin
Location: Western Pennsylvania
Project: Nitrates and pesticides in groundwater relating to human health in siliciclastic aquifers

Intern: James Smith
College: Louisiana State University
Mentor: Sheila Murphy and Deborah Martin
Location: Boulder, Colorado
Project: Response of Colorado Front Range watershed to fire and flood disturbances

Intern: Luke Stevens
College: Concord University
Mentor: Kristen Hart and Michael Cherkiss
Location: Florida
Project: Sea turtle movements and habitat-use, and American crocodile nest monitoring

Intern: Kelsey Taylor
College: University of Oregon
Mentor: Erik Beaver
Location: Yellowstone, Glacier NP, Nevada, Oregon
Project: Investigating factors determining the niche of the American pika living in rocky talus slopes

Intern: Evan Thaler
College: University of Arkansas
Mentor: Judson Harvey
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Understanding the ecological repercussions of high flow events in suburban streams

Intern: Kara Vadman
College: Colgate University
Mentor: Meagan Eagle Gonnea
Location: Woods Hole, Massachusetts
Project: Impact of nitrogen and sea level rise loading on carbon sequestration in coastal salt marsh ecosystems

Intern: Walker Weir
College: University of California, Santa Cruz
Mentor: Craig Johnson and Matthew Emmons
Location: Denver, Colorado
Project: Developing new automated devices and methods for analysis of stable isotopes in geological, hydrological and biological materials

Intern: Crystal Wespestad
College: Indiana University, Bloomington
Mentor: Katherine Scharer
Location: Pasadena, California
Project: Earthquake activity and fault slip rates along the southern San Andreas Fault

Intern: Jenna West
College: University of Texas at Arlington
Mentor: Kenzie Turner
Location: Denver, Colorado
Project: Cenozoic landscape evolution of the Southern Rocky Mountain Regions

Intern: Patrick Whalen
College: University of Kentucky
Mentor: James Vallance
Location: Vancouver, Washington
Project: Geologic mapping and stratigraphic studies at Cascade volcanoes

Intern: Shana Wolff
College: University of Wyoming
Mentor: Ty Coplen
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Geographical variation of elemental and isotopic signatures to determine the provenance of Rosewood from Madagascar

Intern: Holly Young
College: Idaho State University
Mentor: Ian Jezorek and Patrick Connolly
Location: Cook, Washington
Project: Restoration assessment of fish population in the Wind River Watershed